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## NEWS AND COMMENT

In order that the records of Minnesota's participation in the World War may be collected and preserved as a permanent memorial to the war services of Minnesota soldiers and civilians, and as sources of information for the future historian of the state, the Commission of Public Safety has created a body called the Minnesota War Records Commission. Governor Burnquist has appointed the following as members of the commission: Dr. Solon J. Buck, superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society, chairman; Mrs. Marie Brick, librarian of the St. Cloud Public Library; the Reverend William Busch, professor of history in St. Paul Seminary; Charles W. Henke, publicity director of the Minnesota Commission of Public Safety; Dr. John D. Hicks, professor of history in Hamline University; Herschel V. Jones, publisher of the *Minneapolis Journal*; the Honorable Gideon S. Ives, president of the Minnesota Historical Society; Walter F. Rhinow, adjutant general; Dr. Lester B. Shippee, professor of American history in the University of Minnesota; Dr. Eugene W. Bohannon, president of the Duluth State Normal School; Willis M. West of Grand Rapids, formerly professor of history in the University of Minnesota; and Gustaf Lindquist, the governor's secretary. The Commission of Public Safety also appropriated one thousand dollars toward defraying the expenses of the undertaking.

The new commission met on October 29 in the office of the superintendent of the Minnesota Historical Society to organize and to formulate plans. The course of action decided upon embodies the following main features: first, that the commission collect and preserve all available records (using that term in its broadest sense) which relate to Minnesota's participation in the war and to the course of life in Minnesota during the war; second, that county representatives be secured throughout the state for the purpose of assisting the commission in this work, and that the building-up of county or local collections be encouraged; and, third, that the material collected by or for the commission be

deposited, as it accumulates, in the library of the Minnesota Historical Society. Franklin F. Holbrook, field agent of the historical society, was appointed director of the work of the commission.

The papers of John Hubbard Tweedy, who was the delegate from Wisconsin Territory in Congress from September, 1847, to the admission of the state in June, 1848, have recently been acquired by the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The territory included the part of Minnesota between the Mississippi and St. Croix rivers, and the contest over the location of the boundary in this region is one of the important episodes of early Minnesota history. An account of the Tweedy Papers in the *Wisconsin Magazine of History* for September states that "possibly the most interesting of the delegacy letters are those relating to the northwest boundary of the incoming state. The enabling act had named the present St. Croix boundary, but the second Constitutional Convention expressed a preference for a line along Run [*Rum*] River, and Tweedy was charged to present this request to Congress. The acceptance of this line would have made St. Paul and Minneapolis a part of Wisconsin. Letters pro and con from the inhabitants of the district, and from pioneers of Prairie du Chien are among the papers. The Antis had the most influence on Congress, and the St. Croix line was made the boundary." It should be noted that only the parts of St. Paul and Minneapolis on the east side of the Mississippi would have been included in Wisconsin had the proposed boundary been accepted.

Mrs. Frances F. C. Preston, formerly Mrs. Grover Cleveland, is asking that friends of President Cleveland who may have "published addresses or other critical comment of historical value concerning his policies or character, or letters to or from him, or personal recollections of incidents connected with his life," communicate with Mr. William Gorham Rice, 135 Washington Avenue, Albany, or New York State Capitol, Albany. All such material sent will be acknowledged, and returned if desired. Mr. Rice, who was a secretary to Governor Cleveland at Albany, and closely associated with him after 1882, expects to commence a biography of him during the coming year. The Cleveland col-

lection will be deposited ultimately in the New York State Library at Albany.

The *Proceedings* of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association for 1916-17 (volume 9, part 2, pp. 207-320) contains an account of the annual meeting of the association held in Chicago, April 26-28, 1917, by Beverley W. Bond Jr., minutes of business transacted, the report of the secretary-treasurer, and six of the papers read at the sessions. Of special interest to students of the history of the upper Mississippi Valley and Great Lakes region is the paper by Wayne E. Stevens entitled "Fur Trading Companies in the Northwest, 1760-1816." Two of the other papers are "Pageantry Possibilities," by Bernard Sobel, and "Possibilities in State Historical Celebrations," by Harlow Lindley.

One of the most important chapters in the history of railway transportation in Minnesota is ably treated by Dr. Lester B. Shippee of the University of Minnesota in a paper entitled "The First Railroad between the Mississippi and Lake Superior," appearing in the *Mississippi Valley Historical Review* for September. Beginning his study with a brief review of the measures taken by the territorial government of Minnesota to secure adequate rail communication with eastern markets and with a survey of the conditions which made the construction of a road from the Mississippi to Lake Superior increasingly urgent during the Civil War period, Dr. Shippee proceeds to a discussion of the obstacles which were encountered in obtaining the land grants, both state and federal, which would ensure the securing of the necessary capital. "Opposition within the state took the form of local jealousy and strife for precedence," notably between the neighboring communities, St. Paul and Minneapolis and St. Anthony; "far more vigorous and menacing was the hostility of the Wisconsin roads which had no desire to see a considerable portion of their traffic diverted from Lake Michigan to Lake Superior over the rails of a road which must enter into competition with their hitherto uncontested monopoly." The history of the negotiations which continued throughout the first session of the Thirty-eighth Congress (1863-64), resulting in the authorization of a grant of federal lands "to the State of Minnesota for the purpose of aiding in the construction of [a] railroad from the city

of St. Paul to the head of Lake Superior," and of the subsequent struggle in the Minnesota Legislature, which ended in the passage of a bill conferring the congressional grant on the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad Company, is full of interest. Much of the information was drawn from the papers of William P. Murray of St. Paul, who spent some time in Washington in the interests of the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad Company, and of Ignatius Donnelly, who was representative in Congress from Minnesota from 1863 to 1869. Both these collections are in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society.

In an article entitled "Social Work at Camp Dodge," published in the October number of the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, Dr. Fred E. Haynes of the State University of Iowa describes in detail "social work as it has developed in military training camps in the United States." The activities of the various organizations in charge of the social, educational, and recreational work at Camp Dodge, near Des Moines, Iowa, during the spring and summer of 1918, when the Eighty-eighth Division of the National Army, composed of men from Iowa, Minnesota, and North and South Dakota, were in training, form the basis of the study. The same article, in abridged form, is also issued as the October number of *Iowa and War*.

Edwin O. Wood's *Historic Mackinac: The Historical, Picturesque, and Legendary Features of the Mackinac Country* (New York, 1918. 697, 773 p.) is an attempt to bring together for the benefit of the casual reader rather than the historical student a vast amount of material about a region of rare interest. The first volume is a narrative history of old Mackinac during three centuries of French, English, and American occupation. The second volume is devoted to extracts from the writings of Henry R. Schoolcraft, Thomas L. McKenney, Harriet Martineau, and other travelers, assembled without critical comment. The volumes are attractive in appearance and are enriched by numerous maps and illustrations. The second volume contains an extensive and valuable bibliography (pp. 681-740), and an adequate index.

A recent contribution in the field of economics is Ivan L. Pollock's *History of Economic Legislation in Iowa*, published by

the State Historical Society of Iowa in its *Iowa Economic History Series* (1918. x, 386 p.). Defining economic legislation as including those measures which are enacted through economic, as distinct from ethical, social, or political, considerations, Mr. Pollock reviews the historical development of this class of legislation in a typical middle-western state, and shows the increasing tendency of state governments "to extend their activities into fields" which formerly were "left to unregulated individual initiative."

The historian as well as the ethnologist and the musician will find much valuable material in Frances Densmore's *Teton Sioux Music* (Washington, 1918. 561 p.), issued as number 61 of the *Bulletins* of the Bureau of American Ethnology. A companion volume to numbers 45 and 53 of the same series, it continues among the Sioux the analytical study of Indian music which the writer commenced among the Chippewa. The present volume contains tabulated analyses of six hundred songs, including the Chippewa songs previously published. Most of the others were recorded among the Indians belonging to the Teton division of the Sioux on the Standing Rock Reservation in North and South Dakota; a few were recorded among the Sisseton and Wahpeton Sioux at Sisseton, South Dakota. Included in the descriptive analyses there is considerable information in regard to the legends, ceremonies, and customs of these tribes.

Sections seven and eight of the second volume of *Danske i Amerika*, a work dealing with the history of Danish immigration to America, have been recently issued (Minneapolis, C. Rasmussen Company, 1918. Pp. 385-512). They contain chapters on the Danish settlements in Douglas, Morrison, Lincoln, Lyon, and Pipestone counties.

Clarence R. Aurner has issued Book Two of his graded school series, *Iowa Stories* (Iowa City, 1918. 174 p.). The governmental and economic progress of the state from the time of its organization is simply and clearly discussed. Numerous illustrations and outline maps add to the attractiveness of the book.

The *Western Architect* for September contains an article on "Architecture in the Twin Cities of Minnesota," by Robert Craik McLean. One section is devoted to favorable comment and de-

scription of the Minnesota Historical Building. Two full-page plates giving exterior and interior views, together with a smaller photograph of the State Capitol and the Historical Building, accompany the article.

The *Western Magazine* for August contains as number eight of its series of "State Builders of the West" a sketch of "Cushman K. Davis, Seventh Governor of Minnesota." In the July number M. J. Cort, known throughout the Northwest as the organizer of the coöperative creamery movement, began an interesting contribution to the economic history of the state under the title, "Developing the Creamery Industry."

The September *Bulletin* of the Affiliated Engineering Societies of Minnesota (St. Paul) contains the first installment of a valuable and exhaustive bibliography on the "Improvement of the Upper Mississippi River," prepared by Miss Winifred Gregory of the St. Paul Public Library.

*Soløringen* is the title of a Norwegian bimonthly magazine, the first number of which appeared in August. It is published in the interests of the Solørlag under the editorship of Marius Hagen of Minneapolis and Madison.

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Archaeological Society, and the Sauk County Historical Society on September 2 conducted an historical pilgrimage to Portage, Wisconsin, the site of old Fort Winnebago, established in 1828 on the Fox-Wisconsin portage. It was over this portage that Perrot, Le Sueur, Carver, and other early explorers made their way into the region that is now known as Minnesota, and over the same route Duluth and Hennepin journeyed eastward in 1680 after visiting the upper Mississippi. A souvenir folder, which was published for the occasion, contains a short historical sketch of the portage and a photographic facsimile of an oil painting of the fort as it appeared in 1834.

The Fort Ridgely State Park and Historical Association commemorated the fifty-sixth anniversary of the Sioux outbreak of 1862 by appropriate exercises at the park grounds on August 22.

The Illinois Society of the Twin Cities held its annual picnic at Minnehaha Park on August 10. The society is composed of former residents of Illinois.

Attention should be called to a misstatement which was made on page 288 of the November, 1917, number of the *BULLETIN* to the effect that Hans Christian Heg was the founder of the *Nordlyset*, the first Norwegian paper published in America. The *Nordlyset* was established by three men: James D. Reymert, who became its editor, and Even Heg, father of Hans, and Søren Bache, who financed the undertaking.

Mr. Jacob C. Walters of Minneapolis, who was a merchant at Bushnell, Illinois, during the Civil War, is the author of three timely articles. Two of them, appearing in the *Minneapolis Journal* for July 21 and in the *Twin City Commercial Bulletin* for August 27, respectively, contain valuable data on the war-time merchandise prices of 1861-65 as compared with those of 1918, the former taken from original invoices in his possession. The third paper, in the *Bushnell Record* of May 17, treats of the methods of raising troops during the Civil War both by enlistment and by draft; some of the defects and weaknesses of the draft legislation of 1863, which the framers of the act of 1917 so carefully avoided, are pointed out.

The *St. Paul Pioneer Press* of September 29 contains an interesting sketch by Charles M. Flandrau entitled "Some Glimpses behind Scenes at St. Paul Benefit Fetes of Other War Days." After describing various social functions of territorial days, the writer gives an account of the Sanitary Fair held in the winter of 1864-65 as a means "of raising money with which to supply various comforts to the soldiers of the Northern army."

An extended account of the first massacres of the Sioux outbreak of 1862 in the township of Acton, Meeker County, is included in an article entitled "Awards to Minnesota for Indian Depredations Recall Early Massacres" in the August 11 issue of the *Minneapolis Journal*. In the same article is also given the story of the murder of John Cook and his wife of Audubon Township, Becker County, in April, 1872, by Chippewa Indians.



The *Saturday Evening Post* of Burlington, Iowa, in its issue of September 7, began the publication of a series of sketches by Mrs. Jeannette Robert Lamprey on the early history of St. Paul. The writer touches upon a number of interesting social and political events of a bygone day, and shows the gradual change from a frontier community to a large modern city.

The *Rochester Daily Post and Record* for August 22 publishes an interesting paper by Charles C. Willson on the probable cause and origin of the Rochester cyclone of 1883. The paper was read before a gathering of Rochester business men on the thirty-fifth anniversary of the disaster. By a curious coincidence the town of Tyler, Lincoln County, was practically destroyed by a tornado during the delivery of the address.